

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for operating a disk drive, comprising the steps of:
2 detecting insertion of a disk within the disk drive;
3 reading contents of the disk; and
4 storing a copy of the disk contents in a designated location within memory as a
5 back-up version.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing a new
2 version of data in the designated location when a user stores a new version of data on
3 the disk.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of automatically
2 ejecting the disk during a shut down procedure of the computing device.
- 1 4. A computing device, comprising:
2 a processing device;
3 a disk drive; and
4 memory including a disk back-up controller that is configured to store a copy
5 of contents of a disk inserted into the disk drive in a designated location within
6 memory.

1 5. The computing device of claim 4, wherein the disk back-up controller
2 is further configured to store a new version of data in the designated location when a
3 user stores a new version of data on the disk.

1 6. The computing device of claim 4, further comprising an ejection
2 mechanism that is adapted to automatically eject the disk during a shut down
3 procedure of the computing device.

1 7. The computing device of claim 4, wherein the disk drive comprises a
2 floppy disk drive.

1 8. The computing device of claim 4, wherein the computing device is one
2 of a personal computer, a Macintosh computer, and a notebook computer.

1 9. A method for operating a disk drive, comprising the steps of:
2 detecting a shut down procedure of the computing device; and
3 transmitting an ejection command to the disk drive to cause an ejection
4 mechanism of the disk drive to actuate to eject a floppy disk inserted within the disk
5 drive.

1 10. The method of claim 9, detecting insertion of a disk within the disk
2 drive and storing a copy of the disk contents in a designated location within memory
3 as a back-up version.

1 11. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of storing a new
2 version of data in the designated location when a user stores a new version of data on
3 the disk.

1 12. A computing device, comprising:
2 a processing device;
3 a disk drive, the disk drive including an ejection mechanism is configured to
4 actuate to automatically eject a disk contained within the disk drive during shut down
5 procedures of the computing device.

1 13. The computing device of claim 12, further comprising memory
2 including a disk ejection controller configured to transmit an ejection command to the
3 disk drive when a shut down procedure is detected.

1 14. The computing device of claim 12, further comprising memory
2 including a disk back-up controller configured to store a copy of disk contents in a
3 designated location within memory as a back-up version when a disk is inserted into
4 the disk drive.

1 15. The computing device of claim 14, wherein the disk back-up controller
2 is further configured to store a new version of data in the designated location when a
3 user stores a new version of data on the disk.

1 16. The computing device of claim 12, wherein the disk drive comprises a
2 floppy disk drive.

1 17. The computing device of claim 12, wherein the computing device is
2 one of a personal computer, a Macintosh computer, and a notebook computer.

1 18. A disk drive for use in a computing device, the disk drive comprising:
2 an ejection mechanism configured to automatically eject a disk contained
3 within the disk drive during shut down procedures of the computing device.

1 19. The disk drive of claim 18, wherein the ejection mechanism comprises
2 electromechanical components that actuate upon application of an appropriate
3 actuation voltage.